

OCA Record

OCA FILE SSCI

RECPT # _____

OCA 86-3983
2 December 1986

NOTE FOR: Barry Horton

VIA: Dave Gries

FROM:

25X1

SUBJECT: Soviet Policy Options

John Despres called today to say that there is "continuing and high level" interest in the subject of Soviet policy options in the 1990's. He expressed concern that the SSCI has not been advised of actions taken since the Committee's hearing in October. Given this expression of interest and the virtual certainty that Senator Bradley will weigh in on this subject early in the 100th Congress, I recommend that Despres be invited out for a meeting at which you could layout progress on the three tier production schedule you described to the SSCI in October.

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Attachment

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1 - OCA Record
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OCA/Senate (2 Dec 86)

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OCA 86-3437
1 October 1986
8 October 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: SSCI Hearing on Soviet Policy Options

1. On 1 October 1986 at 1000 and on 8 October 1986 at 1100 the SSCI conducted a hearing dealing with Intelligence Community assessments of future Soviet policy options. Transcripts were taken. [redacted]

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2. The first session, which lasted 30 minutes, was attended by Senators Bradley, Hecht, and Roth. Senators Durenberger, Leahy, and Cohen made brief appearances. SSCI staffers present included: Merrill Kelly, Larry Kettlewell, Marvin Ott, Bruce Berkowitz, Steve Ockenden, Mike Mattingly, Charles Battaglia, John Despres, George Tenet, Jim Currie, Dave Holliday, Keith Hall, Jim Dykstra, John Elliff, and Dot Roberson. Our witnesses were Brigadier General Barry Horton, Chairman of the National Intelligence Council and Doug MacEachin, Director of Soviet Analysis (SOVA), Directorate of Intelligence. Also present were [redacted] Assistant National Intelligence Officer (NIO) for USSR; [redacted] from SOVA, and NIO for Strategic Programs, Larry Gershwin. Representing the Office of Congressional Affairs were [redacted]

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3. This session was limited to opening statements by Brigadier General Horton (attached) and Doug MacEachin. [redacted]

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4. The 8 October session was attended by Senators Durenberger and Bradley and staffers Ott, Tenet, Despres, Mattingly, Hall, Holliday, Dykstra. Our witnesses included Brigadier General Horton, Doug MacEachin, Larry Gershwin, NIO/USSR Fritz Ermarth, and [redacted] SOVA. [redacted] represented OCA. This session lasted about an hour and began with opening statements by DIA and State/INR witnesses. [redacted]

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5. Senator Bradley, who was the driving force behind this hearing, said that what he wanted was an assessment of Soviet behavior that focused on the big picture. He said that much of the analytical product dealt with topical, regional, and functional issues and that to understand Soviet behavior the policymaker had to read a huge body of work. Senator Bradley continued that the analysis should start with focus on Gorbachev's constituency; what it is, how solid, and how it can impact on his decisions? Then we should focus on the 5 or 10 decisions Gorbachev will have to make over the next 5 or 6 years and analyze each with consideration given to the impact of his constituency. Finally, Senator Bradley said he wanted us to analyze what a radical advisor to Gorbachev might be saying so that we would be prepared if the unexpected happened. He suggested that this should be done by a different agency. He said we should err on the side of being predictive.

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6. Senator Bradley asked the witnesses what they plan to do by the next time "we meet." Brigadier General Horton replied that the NIC was already going in the direction the Senator advocated and described a three tier production schedule that gets at what Senator Bradley requested. The DIA representative thanked Senator Bradley for his clarifying guidance and pointed out difficulties.

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Chief, Senate Branch
Office of Congressional Affairs

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OCA/Senate [redacted] 14 Oct 86)

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